

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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JULY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN ALABAMA RISES TO 3.9 PERCENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 18, 2006 The Alabama unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent in July after holding steady the previous three months at 3.6 percent. The latest jobless rate equals the figure posted in July 2005.

“The majority of a decline in wage and salary employment between June and July is the result of seasonal losses in education, as well as reductions in manufacturing,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

The 3.9 percent rate represents 85,177 unemployed Alabamians, compared to 78,509 in June. A year ago in July 2005 there were 83,818 unemployed.

The comparable national unemployment rate for July is 4.8 percent, an increase from 4.6 percent in June. In July 2005 the national jobless rate was 5.0 percent.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 32,500 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+8,400); followed by leisure and hospitality (+6,000); educational and health services (+5,600); construction (+4,300); and manufacturing (+3,000).

The lowest county rates in July are: Shelby (2.7 percent), Baldwin (2.9 percent), and Blount, Lee, and Madison (3.3 percent). The highest county rates in July are: Perry (10.7 percent), Bullock (10.4 percent), and Dallas (9.8 percent).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” and follow prompts.